

Page 1, claims

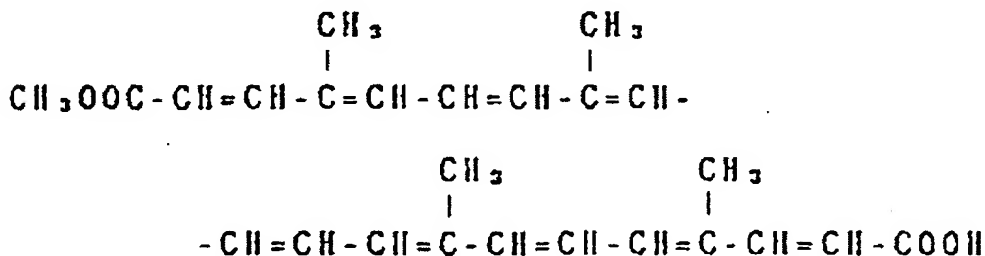
2. What is claimed is:

1. A bread modifier comprising as active ingredients one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of bixin, sodium bixin, potassium bixin, norbixin, sodium norbixin, potassium norbixin and sodium/potassium norbixin.
2. A bread dough containing 0.0004 to 0.004 part by weight, per 100 parts by weight of wheat flour, of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of bixin, sodium bixin, potassium bixin, norbixin, sodium norbixin, potassium norbixin and sodium/potassium norbixin.
3. A method for producing bread, comprising: adding one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of bixin, sodium bixin, potassium bixin, norbixin, sodium norbixin, potassium norbixin and sodium/potassium norbixin to the bread ingredients including wheat flour as a main ingredient, so that the mixture comprises 0.0004 to 0.004 part by weight of said compounds per 100 parts by weight of wheat flour; kneading the mixture; and then fermenting and baking the mixture by a conventional method.

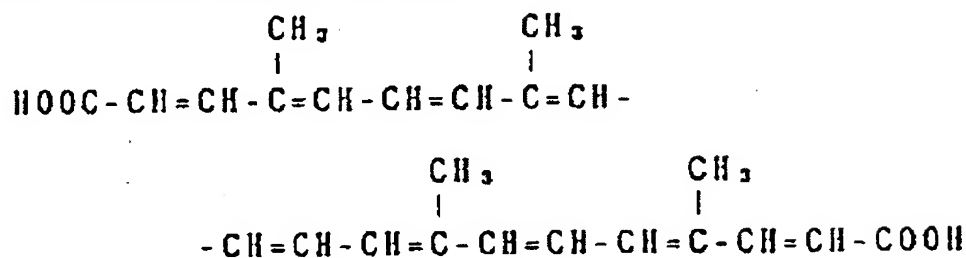
Page 2, lower-right column, line 14 to page 3, upper-left column, line 18

Bixin, norbixin and alkali metal salts thereof are carotenoids represented by the following molecular formulas or structural formulas:

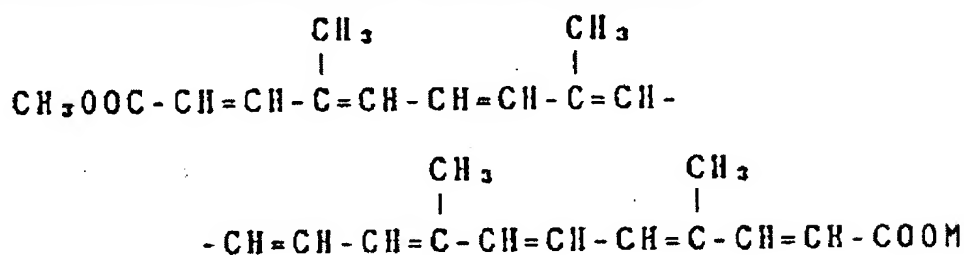
Bixin (molecular formula: $C_{25}H_{30}O_4$):



Norbixin (molecular formula: $C_{24}H_{28}O_4$):

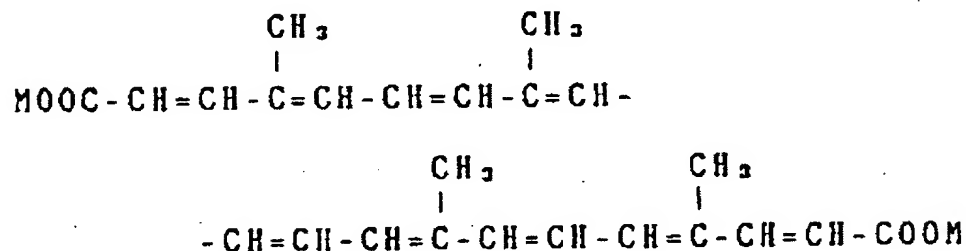


Alkali metal salt of bixin (molecular formula: $C_{25}H_{29}O_4M$):



(where M is sodium or potassium)

Alkali metal salt of norbixin (molecular formula: $C_{24}H_{26}O_4M_2$):



(where M is sodium or potassium).

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Table 2

| | Additive used in bread and amount thereof | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|
| Example 1 | Bixin | 0.0005 part |
| Example 2 | Bixin | 0.0035 part |
| Example 3 | Potassium norbixin | 0.0005 part |
| Example 4 | Potassium norbixin | 0.0035 part |
| Example 5 | Bixin | 0.0015 part |
| | Potassium norbixin | 0.0020 part |
| Comparative Example 1 | Bixin | 0.0070 part |
| Comparative Example 2 | Norbixin | 0.0070 part |
| Comparative Example 3 | Dusting flour | 1 part |
| Comparative Example 4 | Dusting flour | 3 parts |
| Comparative Example 5 | No additive used | |

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Table 4

| | Additive used in bread and amount thereof | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|
| Example 6 | Sodium bixin | 0.0005 part |
| Example 7 | Sodium bixin | 0.0035 part |
| Example 8 | Potassium bixin | 0.0035 part |
| Example 9 | Norbixin | 0.0035 part |
| Example 10 | Sodium/potassium norbixin | 0.0035 part |
| Example 11 | Norbixin | 0.0015 part |
| | Potassium norbixin | 0.0020 part |
| Comparative Example 6 | Sodium bixin | 0.0070 part |
| Comparative Example 7 | Potassium bixin | 0.0070 part |